

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INT-05 DEAE-00 PER-03

ABF-01 /034 W

----- 066392

R 170815Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5571

INFO AMCONSUL NQA

UNCLAS TOKYO 17901

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, JA

SUBJECT: REST AND RECUPERATION

REF.: STATE 86346; 3 FAM 698.5-1 & 2

SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUESTED:

IN VIEW ISOLATION, CLIMATE, HEALTH SITUATION AND LACK OF RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL FACILITIES, CONSIDER THAT CIVILIAN AGENCY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO OKINAWA NEED AND REQUIRE PERIODIC CHANGE OF ENVIRONMENT DURING TOUR OF DUTY. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST OKINAWA BE DESIGNATED R & R POST WITH HONG KONG AS DESTINATION. END SUMMARY

1. OKINAWA IS A SMALL ISOLATED ISLAND. THERE ARE NO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES AVAILABLE ON THE ISLAND. ONLY AIR TRAVEL TO HONG KONG (882 MILES), SEOUL (800 MILES), TOKYO (875 MILES), OR MANILA (900 MILES) WOULD PROVIDE A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN ENVIRONMENT, BUT COSTS FOR FAMILIES ARE PROHIBITIVE.

2. DIFFICULTIES EXIST IN COMMUNICATIONS WITH FOREIGN NATIONALS BECAUSE MOST OKINAWANS SPEAK LITTLE ENGLISH. FREQUENT USE OF AN INTERPRETER IS REQUIRED IF ONE WISHES TO COMMUNICATE TO ANY DEGREE AND EVEN THEN, MISUNDERSTANDINGS ARISE. ALL OF THIS TENDS TO INCREASE THE SENSE OF ISOLATION MOST AMERICANS FEEL.

3. CLIMATE IS SUB-TROPICAL. PROLONGED HIGH TEMPERATURES ARE  
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EXTREMELY DEBILITATING. RELATIVE HUMIDITY AVERAGES 80 PERCENT

AND THERE IS A CONSTANT FEELING OF DAMPNESS AND STICKINESS. FUNGAL AND OTHER SKIN INFECTIONS ARE PREVALENT ON OKINAWA DUE TO THE HOT, HUMID CLIMATE. THERE IS A RELATIVELY HIGH RATE OF TUBERCULOSIS. THE CLIMATE AGGRAVATES ARTHRITIC AND RHEUMATIC CONDITIONS. CORAL DUST IS IN ABUNDANCE AND CAUSES FREQUENT AND PROLONGED RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS.

4. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ARE SEVERELY LIMITED, CROWDED, AND GENERALLY ORIENTED TOWARD UNACCOMPANIED U.S. FORCES PERSONNEL. CULTURAL FACILITIES ARE SCARCE; AND VISITING ARTISTS OR GROUPS APPEAR INFREQUENTLY.

5. TO PROVIDE OPTIMUM ENVIRONMENTAL, CULTURAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CHANGE, EMBASSY AND CONGEN NAHA RECOMMEND THAT HONG KONG BE DESIGNATED AS RELIEF AREA.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THE AMBASSADOR AND THE CONSUL GENERAL REQUEST THAT OKINAWA BE DESIGNATED AS AN R & R POST AND THAT HONG KONG BE DESIGNATED AS THE RELIEF AREA. VOA, FBIS, TTPI (INTERIOR), AND DEA CONCUR IN THIS REQUEST.  
HODGSON

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